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Gilbert and colleagues want floodplain levels left alone

LANSING – Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, and his Senate colleagues today adopted a resolution urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reject proposed revisions to the floodplain elevation levels in St. Clair County.

The current FEMA proposal calls for raising the elevations, particularly in waterfront areas. This would place a significant number of new and existing homes and businesses within the floodplain area, forcing property owners to purchase expensive flood insurance, which could cost hundreds of dollars per year.

“While many families and businesses are already feeling the burden of a sluggish economy, there is no reason to place further burdens on them by forcing them to buy costly insurance they will never need,” said Gilbert, a resident of St. Clair County. “Common sense tells us this proposal is outlandish since research has shown that lake levels are dropping, not rising. We want to keep families and companies in the county, not drive them away by the threat of unnecessary insurance costs.”